



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161

<http://ct.gov/dmv>



***Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles***  
***Commissioner Melody A. Currey***  
***Transportation Committee Public Hearing***  
***March 5, 2014***

**S.B. No. 335 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR CONNECTICUT'S DRIVERS.**

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and other members of the Transportation Committee. I am here to testify today regarding SB 335 AN ACT REQUIRING CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR CONNECTICUT'S DRIVERS. This bill would require the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) driver license holders to take and pass a written knowledge test before they could get their license renewed. If they fail the written test on the first attempt, the legislation would also require the person to then have to take and pass an on-the-road skills test in order to retain the driver license.

It appears the legislation's intent is to try to make sure that drivers know the rules of the road before they receive their renewal license. DMV also wants to make sure that the motoring public knows how to operate a motor vehicle safely and understands the rules.

However, this legislation would require DMV to significantly modify its current driver license renewal process at considerable cost. The Department would have to administer approximately 400,000 additional knowledge tests each year which the Department would not be able to accommodate with current equipment and staffing. Further, AAA currently performs license renewals in partnership with DMV, however, AAA does not administer any knowledge testing because they issue renewals only. As a result, all of the customer service for driver license renewals now performed by AAA would be shifted to DMV.

The Department has made dramatic improvements for its customers in the last year by allowing customers to schedule their driver license tests online at a date and time that is convenient for them at branch locations throughout the state. This legislation would require all of its customers due for a license renewal to now return to a branch to take a test causing increased wait times.

While the Department can understand the intended goal of this legislation, there is no clear evidence that requiring drivers to pass a written exam at the time of license renewal results in safer operation on a state's roadways.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, I would respectfully requests this this legislation not proceed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.